

### REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to address the Examiner's objections. In light of these amendments, the Applicant requests withdrawal of the objections. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over *Miyawaki et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,726,439). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, because the cited reference does not disclose or suggest features of the outputting units or outputting step of the present invention as described in independent claims 1 and 6.

Specifically, *Miyawaki et al.* does not disclose "timing adjustment means for adjusting a timing at which the result of the operation is output for each of said plurality of elements from said outputting units, said timing adjustment means using a control signal other than the clear signal or the transfer signal in the timing adjustment" as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claim 6. Instead, *Miyawaki* discloses a timing *generation* circuit (349) that provides a straightforward timing pulse to activate read-out circuit 348 (col. 10, lines 32-35). Accordingly, the circuit in *Miyawaki* does not "adjust" the timing of the outputs as claimed in the present application, but merely generates pulses to activate the read-out circuit. In fact, the *Miyawaki* reference is completely silent on this feature. Also, since no timing adjustments are disclosed in the *Miyawaki* reference, it cannot also disclose the feature of using a "control signal other than the clear signal or the transfer signal" to perform the timing adjustment.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-15 are now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & BLOYD LLC

BY 

Peter Zura

Reg. No. 48,196

12

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4208

Dated: June 23, 2004